

DELL

NO. 946

10¢

THE

BIG

COUNTRY



IT WAS TOO BIG
FOR ONE MAN
TO HAVE IT ALL!

Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

They warned the dude: "The Big Country demands big courage!"



To his fiancée it meant fighting hopeless odds.



To his rival it meant vicious browling.



To a cattle baron it meant walking into ambush...



But courage was none of these to the quiet dude...



And one day he would have to prove it—all alone!

GREGORY PECK JEAN SIMMONS
CARROLL BAKER CHARLTON HESTON

in **WILLIAM WYLER'S** production

THE BIG COUNTRY

Co-starring

BURL IVES CHARLES BICKFORD

with **CHUCK CONNORS ALFONSO BEDOYA**

Screenplay by **IRVING R. WOOD** and **ST. BARTLETT** and **ROBERT WILDER**
Screen Adaptation by **DESSAMYN WESÉ** and **ROBERT WYLER** Based on the
Novel by **DONALD HAMILTON** Produced by **WILLIAM WYLER** and **GREGORY PECK**

Directed by **WILLIAM WYLER**

An Anthy—Worldwide Production Released thru UNITED ARTISTS

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THE BIG COUNTRY

AS THE STAGE STOPS IN A SMALL SOUTHERN TEXAS TOWN...



BETTER DUCK INSIDE THE HOTEL, MISTER! SOMETHING'S **WRONG!** AREN'T ANY PEOPLE AROUND ON THE STREET!

COULD YOU TELL ME HOW TO GET TO THE TERRILL PLACE---THE LADDER RANCH?

IT'S QUITE A PIECE OUT OF TOWN! I RECKON YOU'RE THE YOUNG FELLOW WHO'S GOING TO MARRY MISS PAT TERRILL!

IF SHE HASN'T CHANGED HER MIND! AND NOT SEEING ANYONE HERE TO MEET ME---

---NO ONE'S FOOL ENOUGH TO WALK OUTSIDE! NOT WITH THE TROUBLE ABOUT TO START BETWEEN THE TWO LADDER HANDS AND BUCK HANNESEY!

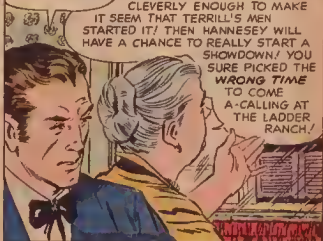


TROUBLE?

YES, FOUR HANNESEY BOYS HAVE TWO LADDER HANDS IN THE CAFE! THEY'RE TRYING TO GET 'EM DRUNK ENOUGH TO START A FIGHT!

AND IF THE FIGHT STARTS?

OLD RUFUS WILL HAVE HAD HIS SON BUCK MANAGE IT CLEVERLY ENOUGH TO MAKE IT SEEM THAT TERRILL'S MEN STARTED IT! THEN HANNESEY WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO REALLY START A SHOWDOWN! YOU SURE PICKED THE **WRONG TIME** TO COME A-CALLING AT THE LADDER RANCH!



MR. MCKAY? THERE'S A BUCKBOARD OUTSIDE FOR YOU! TAKE YOUR FIRST RIGHT AND YOU'LL FIND MISS TERRILL WAITING FOR YOU! BUT MAKE IT QUICK... LEAD WILL BE FLYING SOON!

THANKS!



THAT'S A HECK OF A HAT TO BRING TO THIS COUNTRY, FRIEND! IF YOU DON'T WATCH OUT, SOME COWBOYS LIABLE TO SHOOT IT OFF FOR FUN!

I'LL REMEMBER THAT!



IF YOU NEED HELP AND SOMEBODY CAN LEND ME A WEAPON, PREFERABLY A RIFLE SINCE I'M NOT USED TO REVOLVING PISTOLS...

...DON'T BE A HERO MR. MCKAY! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR GREEN HORNS!



MAYBE NOT... BUT I AM HERE!



JIM, DARLING!

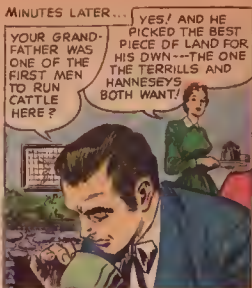
HELLO, PAT! IT'S BEEN SIX MONTHS... BUT YOU'RE EXACTLY AS I REMEMBER YOU!



THERE WERE TIMES I WAS CERTAIN YOU WEREN'T COMING... THAT YOU'D POSTPONE OUR WEDDING TO GET RID OF ME!

THERE WERE TIMES I WONDERED IF YOU'D STILL HAVE ME WHEN I DID COME!





IT'S HERE, AT THE JUNCTION OF TWO RIVERS! IT'S THE ONLY PLACE WITH PLENTY OF WATER -- AND TO RAISE CATTLE YOU NEED WATER!

BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE TEACHING SCHOOL NOW, NOT RUNNING A RANCH! WHY HAVEN'T YOU SOLD OUT TO ONE OF THEM?



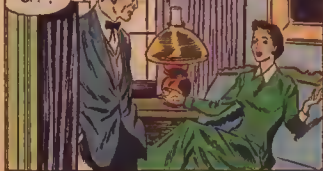
IT ISN'T EASY NOT SELLING OUT! I DON'T LIKE SAYING "NO" TO PAT'S FATHER, AND OLD RUFUS HANNESEY KEEPS SENDING HIS SON BUCK OVER, HOPING HE CAN GET MY LAND BY MARRYING ME!

WELL, IF YOU'RE NOT HOLDING OUT FOR LOVE OR MONEY--- WHY ARE YOU?



IF I SELL TO MAJOR TERRILL, OLD RUFUS WILL START A RANGE WAR TO GET IT! BUT WHILE I DON'T SELL IT, RUFUS FIGURES HE STILL MAY GET IT LEGALLY SOMEDAY, AND THAT KEEPS THE PEACE!

BUT HOW LONG CAN YOU STALL THEM OFF?



OLD RUFUS MAY DIE OR THE COUNTY MAY BECOME TOO SETTLED FOR BIG RANCHES TO SUCCEED! I'LL HOLD OUT AS LONG AS I CAN KEEP PEACE HERE! MEN'S LIVES DEPEND ON THAT--AND YOURS AMONG THEM!



HERE COMES STEVE!
LET'S SEE WHAT
HAPPENED IN TOWN!

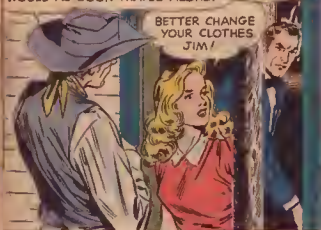


WELL, STEVE?

WHEN THEY SAW THEY WERE
OUTNUMBERED, THERE WASN'T
ANY FIGHT IN THEM!



YOU MIGHT AS WELL START, MA'AM! WE'LL RIDE
A MILE OR SO BEHIND YOU---RECKON YOU TWO
WOULD AS SOON TRAVEL ALONE!



BETTER CHANGE
YOUR CLOTHES
JIM!

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH WHAT
I'M WEARING?

YOU'RE NOT GOING
TO THE RANCH WEAR-
ING *THAT* HAT,
ARE YOU?

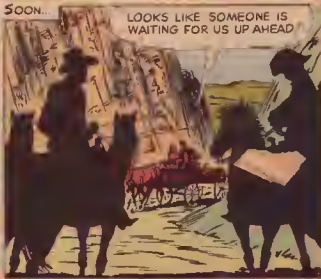


MY DEAR, IF YOU THINK I'M GOING
TO APPEAR BEFORE YOUR FATHER IN
A SOMBRERO, HIGH-HEELED BOOTS AND
WEARING A REVOLVER, YOU'RE WRONG!
NO MATTER WHAT I WEAR, I'M GOING
TO LOOK LIKE A *TENDERFOOT*
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I AM!



SOON...

LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE IS
WAITING FOR US UP AHEAD



HANNESEY'S
MEN, I SUPPOSE!

YES! LOOKS LIKE
BUCK ON THE BAY!
BUT HOW DID
YOU KNOW?

IT SEEMED LOGICAL! THEY WERE
ROUTED BY SUPERIOR NUMBERS
IN TOWN SO THEY DECIDED TO LIE
IN WAIT OUT HERE! I DON'T
SUPPOSE WE CAN OUTFRAN THEM?

I WOULDN'T
RUN FROM
THAT BUNCH
OF SADDLE
TRAMPS!

THEY AREN'T LIKELY
TO HARM **YOU**,
ARE THEY?

EVEN THE HANNESEYS
WOULDN'T TOUCH A
WOMAN! THE WHOLE
COUNTY WOULD STRING
THEM UP!

THEN WE **WON'T**
NEED THE RIFLE!

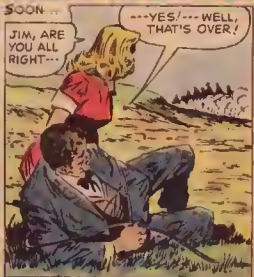
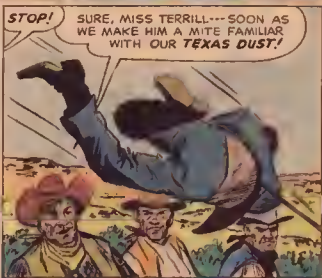
SO **THAT'S** THE
FELLOW YOU'RE
GOING TO MARRY,
MISS TERRILL! HE
SURE WEARS FANCY
CLOTHES!

HIS HAT WOULD SURE MAKE
A GOOD TARGET!

CLIP IT,
BOYS!

BANG

ZING



AND I DON'T THINK MUCH OF THEIR MARKSMANSHIP! COME ON, LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



NEXT MORNING, AT THE LADDER RANCH...

HOW DO YOU FEEL, JIM?

A LOT BETTER, MAJOR TERRILL!



FIRST, LET ME THANK YOU FOR YOUR BEHAVIOR. I KNOW PATRICIA IS IMPULSIVE! IT'S NOT HER NATURE TO WAIT SIX MONTHS FOR ANYTHING! SHE'D HAVE PREFERRED TO ELOPE, BUT I'M GLAD YOU'LL BE MARRIED HERE!

IT'S MY MARRIAGE, TOO, SIR, AND I DON'T THINK IT SHOULD BE RUSHED INTO!



THESE BELONGED TO MY FATHER! THEY'RE FRENCH DUELING PISTOLS AND QUITE ACCURATE! I'D LIKE YOU TO HAVE THEM!

THAT'S MOST KIND, JIM! I SEE THEY WERE USED!



YES, WHEN I WAS A YOUNG BOY MY FATHER HAD ME PRACTICE WITH THEM! HE SAID A GENTLEMAN SHOULD BE ABLE TO DEFEND HIS HONOR!

YOU SEEM TO HAVE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT ATTITUDE! PATRICIA SAID YOU REFUSED TO DEFEND YOURSELF YESTERDAY!



PERHAPS I DID NOT FEEL MY HONOR WAS INVOLVED, SIR!

WELL, YOURS MAY NOT BE, BUT MINE IS!

NO ARMED RUFIANS ARE ROUGHING UP A GUEST OF MINE! I'VE SENT STEVE TO ROUND UP THE HANDS--WE'RE CALLING ON THE HANNESEYS!



IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, MAJOR, I'D PREFER **NOT** TO BE THE CAUSE OF A LOT OF TROUBLE! IN FACT, THAT'S WHAT I TRIED TO AVOID YESTERDAY! I'D APPRECIATE YOUR FORGETTING IT!

FORGET IT? I FIND YOUR ATTITUDE HARD TO UNDERSTAND!



WHAT DO YOU FIND HARD TO UNDERSTAND?

WHY, I TOLD JIM WE WERE RIDING AGAINST THE HANNESEYS AND HE DIDN'T SEEM INTERESTED IN JOINING US!



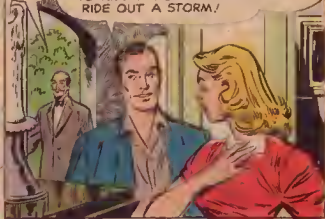
I MERELY HOPED YOU'D CHANGED YOUR MIND! BUT IF YOU ARE RIDING, OF COURSE, I'LL BE WITH YOU!

SEE, DAD? I TOLD YOU JIM WAS A **REAL MAN!**



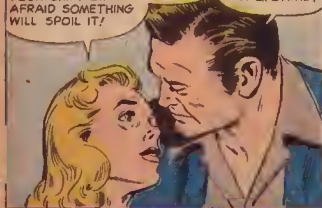
YOU CAN RIDE?

TRUE, I'VE SPENT MOST OF MY LIFE AT SEA AS CAPTAIN OF MY FATHER'S SAILING SHIPS, BUT I WAS TAUGHT TO RIDE A HORSE AS WELL AS RIDE OUT A STORM!



OH, JIM, I WISH WE'D GOTTEN MARRIED WHEN I WANTED TO! WE HAD SOMETHING WONDERFUL IN THOSE DAYS WHEN I WAS ON YOUR SHIP! I'M AFRAID SOMETHING WILL SPOIL IT!

IF IT CAN'T LAST SIX MONTHS, HOW COULD IT LAST A LIFETIME?



I GUESS I DISAPPOINTED YOU YESTERDAY

NO OF COURSE NOT! WELL, MAYBE A LITTLE---BUT YOU ARE RIDING WITH THEM TODAY! **THAT** MAKES UP FOR IT!



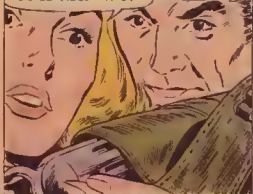
I THINK YOU MISS THE POINT! THOSE MEN WERE OBVIOUSLY **NOT** GOING TO KILL ME IN FRONT OF A WITNESS LIKE YOU! YOU SAID THEY WOULDN'T HARM YOU! I COULDN'T LET YOU DEFEND ME, AND I'D HAVE HAD NO CHANCE AGAINST THE FOUR OF THEM!



GREENHORNS ARE ALWAYS FAIR GAME! I'VE SEEN MY SAILORS GIVE LAND-LUBBERS A ROUGH TIME ON BOARD SHIP! SHOULD I HAVE RISKED **KILLING** SOMEONE JUST TO SAVE MY SUIT?



THIS IS A **BIG COUNTRY**! THERE'S NO LAW WITHIN TWO HUNDRED MILES! IF DAD DOESN'T RIDE AGAINST THE HANNESEYS, THEY'LL **KEEP** WALKING OVER US!--- IF YOU ARE GOING, YOU'LL NEED **THIS**!



SOON...

WE GENERALLY GET ON FROM THE **LEFT** SIDE MR. MCKAY!

THAT MUCH I KNOW!



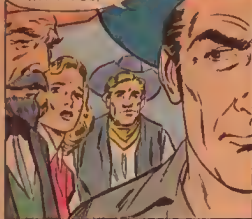
AND I ALSO KNOW WHY EVERYONE—INCLUDING PAT—IS WATCHING! THAT HORSE IS A **WILD BRONC**! THEY WANT TO SEE ME THROWN AND SHE WANTS TO TEST MY MANHOOD!



TAKE THIS, PLEASE! I DON'T THINK YOUR PLAN IS A WISE ONE AND DON'T USE ME TO JUSTIFY **YOUR** FIGHTING, SIR!



BESIDES, MR. LEECH HAS PROVIDED ME WITH SUCH A GENTLE HORSE. I DON'T THINK HE COULD KEEP UP WITH YOU!



MEANWHILE, AT THE HANNESEY RANCH.

SOMEONE SEND BUCK A-RUNNING TO ME!



WANT ME, DAD?

I DIDN'T TELL YOU TO BEAT UP ANY STRANGERS DID I?



HECK, I JUST MUSSUPPED UP THE DUDE A LITTLE! WHAT'S THE HARM? YOU WANT TO KEEP PUSHING TERRILL, DON'T YOU?

NOT TWICE IN ONE DAY, YOU FOOL! TERRILL IS A STUPID, HOT-HEADED MAN! HE THINKS HE CAN BUFFALO US ANY TIME HE WANTS TO RIDE HERE!



BUT I DON'T WANT HIM HERE TILL I'M READY FOR HIM! KEEP YOUR PISTOL HOLSTERED TILL I TELL YOU TO USE IT! IF YOU HAD KILLED THAT DUDE I'D HAVE TURNED YOU IN MYSELF! IS THAT CLEAR?

IT'S CLEAR!

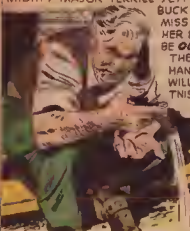


NOW DON'T GO WASTING TIME FIGURING HOW YOU CAN GET THE BEST OF ME! ROUND UP THE HARDCASES WE LET HIDE OUT HERE SO WE'LL BE READY IF TERRILL COMES! THEN FIND ME THAT BROKEN-DOWN PREACHER BEAMIS! I MAY WANT HIM TO PERFORM A MARRIAGE IN A FEW DAYS!



YES, WE'RE **TRASH!** I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CALLED IT, ALWAYS WILL BE! BUT MAYBE I CAN WHIP THE LIKES OF HIGH AND MIGHTY MAJOR TERRILL YET! IF I GET

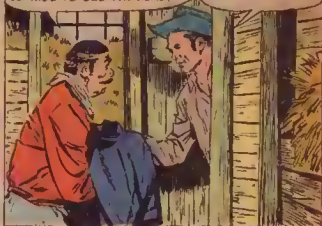
BUCK TO MARRY MISS MARAGON, HER LAND WILL BE **OURS!** AND THEN THE HANNESEYS WILL OWN THIS COUNTY!



AND AT THE TERRILL RANCH...

SI, SEÑOR! MISS PAT JOINED HER FATHER AND THE OTHERS TO RIDE TO SEE THE HERD!

AT LEAST I'VE DONE **THAT** MUCH! NOBODY'LL GET SNOT TODAY!



BUT YOU ARE NOT SERIOUS, SEÑOR, ABOUT RIDING OLD THUNDER? ONLY THE MAJOR AND STEVE HAVE STAYED ON HIM!

SADDLE HIM UP, RAMON!



BUT THIS MORNING---

--- I DIDN'T WANT TO GET THROWN OFF HIM JUST TO GIVE MR LEECH A LAUGH! BUT I WILL TRY TO RIDE HIM NOW FOR MY OWN SATISFACTION!



NEIGH!



THUD!

A DOZEN TRIES LATER...

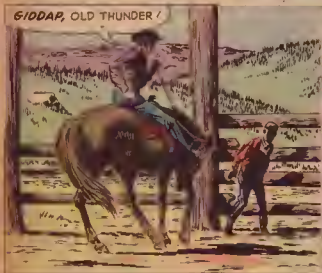


SEÑOR, YOU
MUST STOP--

---CAST ME OFF AGAIN, RAMON!
I'M NOT STOPPING TILL THAT
HORSE KNOWS WHO'S
CAPTAIN!

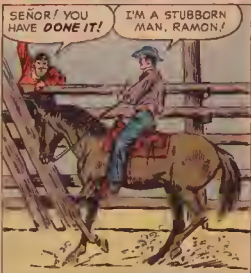


GIDDAP, OLD THUNDER!



SEÑOR! YOU
HAVE *DONE IT!*

I'M A STUBBORN
MAN, RAMON!



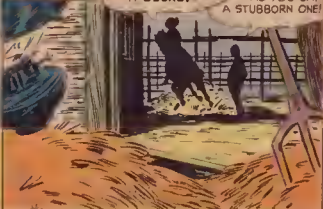
THE SEÑORITA WOULD
BE PLEASED TO KNOW!

THE SEÑORITA
IS NOT SUP-
POSED TO LOVE
ME FOR MY HORSEMAN-
SHIP! I CAN'T SEE WHY
THIS
SHOULD
MATTER
TO HER!



I DIDN'T DO IT TO IMPRESS ANYONE
IN FACT RIGHT NOW I DON'T KNOW
WHY I DID WANT TO DO IT! THAT'S
ALL THE MORE REASON FOR KEEPING
IT *SECRET!*

SI SEÑOR
YOU ARE A
STRANGE
MAN---AND
AS YOU SAY
A STUBBORN ONE!



NOW, IF I CAN TROUBLE YOU FOR ONE MORE FAVOR---A SADDLED HORSE, SOME FOOD AND WATER AND A MAP OF THE AREA!

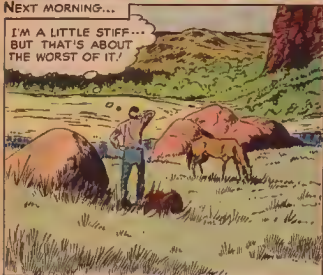
YOU ARE GOING RID-
ING AGAIN?

YES, RAMON, AND PLEASE TELL THE TERRILL'S NOT TO WORRY IF I'M GONE OVERNIGHT! I'VE FOUND MY WAY HOME ACROSS SOME LARGE OCEANS SO I'M SURE I CAN MANAGE THE TEXAS RANGELAND!

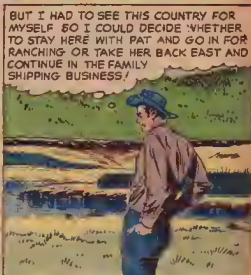


NEXT MORNING...

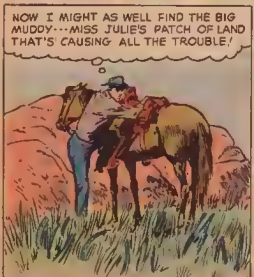
I'M A LITTLE STIFF... BUT THAT'S ABOUT THE WORST OF IT!



BUT I HAD TO SEE THIS COUNTRY FOR MYSELF SO I COULD DECIDE WHETHER TO STAY HERE WITH PAT AND GO IN FOR RANCHING OR TAKE HER BACK EAST AND CONTINUE IN THE FAMILY SHIPPING BUSINESS!

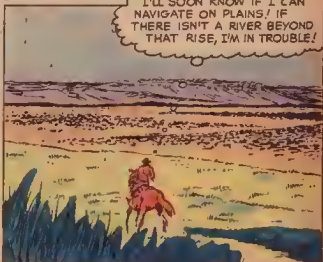


NOW I MIGHT AS WELL FIND THE BIG MUDDY---MISS JULIE'S PATCH OF LAND THAT'S CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE!



SHORTLY AFTER...

I'LL SOON KNOW IF I CAN NAVIGATE ON PLAINS! IF THERE ISN'T A RIVER BEYOND THAT RISE, I'M IN TROUBLE!



SO THAT'S THE BIG MUDDY! EVEN I CAN SEE
NOW WHY THE WHOLE FUTURE OF CATTLE RAISING
IN THIS AREA COULD DEPEND ON THAT WATER!

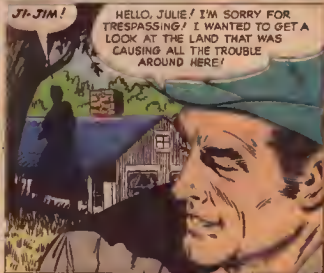


JUST HOLD IT
RIGHT THERE,
PILGRIM!



JI-JIM!

HELLO, JULIE! I'M SORRY FOR
TRESPASSING! I WANTED TO GET A
LOOK AT THE LAND THAT WAS
CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE
AROUND HERE!



WHERE'S PAT?
YOU AREN'T
RIDING AROUND
ALONE?

JULIE IF YOU'RE GOING TO TELL
ME THIS IS A **BIG** COUNTRY, I'LL
BE DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!
EVERYONE ELSE HAS **ALREADY**
TOLD ME THAT!



I STILL DON'T
KNOW HOW YOU
HOPE TO KEEP
FROM GETTING
LOST!

I HAVE A MAP AND A
COMPASS! AND
THEY'VE GUIDED ME
TO SOME FINE
SMELLING
COOKING!



BUCK HANNESEY CALLED ON ME LAST NIGHT! TOLD ME ABOUT "MEETING" YOU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT--- YOU SEEM STIFF!

YOUR MR HANNESEY DIDN'T SEEM TO LIKE STRANGERS! BUT THE STIFFNESS COMES FROM A HORSE MR. LEECH OFFERED ME!



RELUCTANTLY JIM MCKAY TELLS OF HOW HE RODE OLD THUNDER...

RAMON IS A GOOD MAN! HE USED TO WORK FOR MY GRANDFATHER! BUT I'M STILL AMAZED AT WHAT YOU DID!



WOULD YOU SHOW ME AROUND YOUR PLACE?

LOVE TO! I DON'T GET HERE TOO OFTEN! TEACHING SCHOOL PINS ME DOWN IN TOWN!

BUT I DON'T LIKE TO LET THE PLACE COMPLETELY GO TO POT, SO I COME OUT AND WORK AROUND HERE EVERY SO OFTEN!



LATER...

OF COURSE IT WOULD TAKE ME TWO DAYS TO SHOW YOU THE WHOLE PLACE!

I'VE SEEN ENOUGH TO LEARN WHAT I CAME HERE TO DISCOVER!



IT'S A LOVELY PLACE, JULIE! WOULD YOU SELL IT TO ME?



EARLY THAT EVENING, JIM MCKAY RIDES OUT OF JULIE MARAGON'S RANCH, AND...



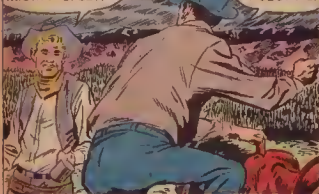
IF THAT'S COFFEE I WOULDN'T MIND SOME!

MR. MCKAY! WE'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU ALL DAY!



THE MAJOR'S ACROSS THE RIVER TRYING TO FOLLOW YOUR TRACKS! MISS TERRILL SENT ME HERE TO CHECK THIS SIDE! SHE'S MIGHTY UPSET!

I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT! I ASKED RAMON TO TELL YOU **NOT** TO WORRY ABOUT ME!



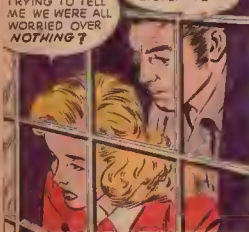
WELL, IT WAS A FOOLISH STUNT FOR A TENDERFOOT! YOU COULDN'T HELP BUT GET LOST--- IT'S A BIG COUNTRY!



SOON ...

JIM: ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME WE WERE ALL WORRIED OVER **NOTHING?**

DEPENDS ON WHO'S VERSION YOU LISTEN TO---



JUST THE OTHER SIDE OF THE RIDGE IS WHERE WE FOUND HIM, MAJOR! HE WAS HALF FALLING OFF HIS HORSE! SEEMED IN POOR SHAPE! CAME IN BEGGING FOR COFFEE --- HAD TO REST HIM A BIT BEFORE WE COULD START HOME!



MR. LEECH, FOR THE SAKE OF ACCURACY, WHY DON'T YOU SAY THAT I LOOKED TIRED, BUT I WAS HEADING HERE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WHEN I CAME UPON YOUR CAMPSITE?

ARE YOU CALLING ME A LIAR?

I AM MERELY CORRECTING THE IMPRESSION YOU ARE GIVING MAJOR TERRILL!

OUT HERE, CALLING A MAN A LIAR IS ASKING FOR A FIGHT! BUT SEEING YOU'RE A STRANGER IN THESE PARTS, I'LL LET YOU TAKE IT BACK!

IF I'M IN AS BAD SHAPE AS YOU CLAIM, IT WOULDN'T BE A FAIR TIME FOR YOU TO FIGHT WITH ME, WOULD IT? BUT YOU'RE GAMBLING THAT YOU CAN BEAT ME AND THAT MISS TERRILL WILL ADMIRE YOU FOR IT!

IF YOU WERE A GENTLEMAN, YOU'D HAVE KEPT HER NAME OUT OF IT!

BUT SINCE YOU BROUGHT UP HER NAME, I'LL SAY THIS... I THINK YOU FOOLED HER BACK EAST WITH YOUR FANCY TALK! YOU LOOKED BIG THERE, BUT OUT HERE YOU'RE MIGHTY SMALL! YOU'RE NOT GOOD ENOUGH FOR HER AND I'LL PROVE IT!

YOU'LL PROVE NOTHING WITH YOUR GUNS, FISTS OR HORSES! GOODNIGHT!

COME BACK HERE!

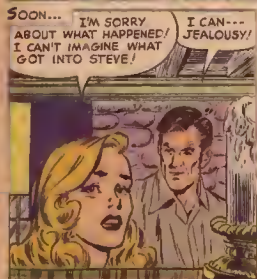
OW!



I'LL BET HE'LL
FIGHT NOW!



WELL I'LL BE!--
HE'S NOT GOING
TO LIFT A FINGER!



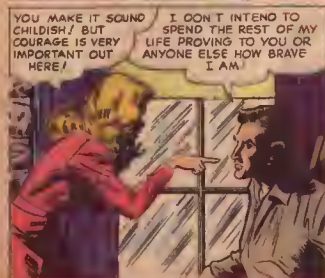
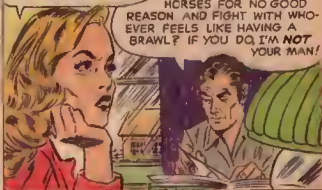
SOON...

I'M SORRY
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED!
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT
GOT INTO STEVE!

I CAN---
JEALOUSY!

I SUPPOSE HE COULD BE
JEALOUS, NOT THAT I'VE
EVER GIVEN HIM THE
SLIGHTEST ENCOURAGE-
MENT! I WAS A BIT
DISAPPOINTED IN YOU!

---WHAT KIND OF A
HUSBAND DO YOU
WANT?--A MAN WHO'LL
SHOOT TO KILL AT THE
SLIGHTEST INSULT, RISK
HIS NECK ON WILD
HORSES FOR NO GOOD
REASON AND FIGHT WITH WHO-
EVER FEELS LIKE HAVING A
BRAWL? IF YOU DO, I'M **NOT**
YOUR MAN!



YOU MAKE IT SOUND
CHILDISH! BUT
COURAGE IS VERY
IMPORTANT OUT
HERE!

I DON'T INTEND TO
SPEND THE REST OF MY
LIFE PROVING TO YOU OR
ANYONE ELSE HOW BRAVE
I AM!



YOU'VE
ALREADY
PROVED
ENOUGH!

WELL---I GUESS THAT
TAKES CARE OF THE
WEDDING! IF YOU'LL
HAVE SOMEONE HITCH
UP A BUCKBOARD, I'LL
PACK MY THINGS AND
HEAD EAST!

NEXT MORNING...

HE WASN'T AT ALL THE **REAL** MAN I REMEMBERED WHO COMMANDED HIS SHIP AND CREW! OUT HERE, HE WAS A **MOUSE**!

DID YOU EXPECT HIM TO BRING HIS SHIP WITH HIM?

NO, BUT HE DIDN'T HAVE TO DO EVERYTHING WRONG HERE! NOT FIGHTING BUCK OR STEVE, GETTING LOST---

---ARE YOU **SURE** HE WAS LOST? HE SEEMED TO FIND HIS WAY TO THE BIG MUDDY WITHOUT ANY TROUBLE!

HE WASN'T IN TROUBLE?

OF COURSE NOT! HE JUST SEEMED A LITTLE STIFF FROM RIDING OLD THUNDER!

OLD THUNDER! BUT I WAS WATCHING HIM WITH THE OTHERS --- HE **DIDN'T** EVEN DARE GET ON THAT HORSE!

YOU WERE WATCHING? YOU DIDN'T WARN HIM NOT TO GET ON THAT OUTLAW HORSE? YOU'D HAVE LET THE MAN YOU LOVE GET HURT FOR THE SAKE OF A CRUEL JOKE?

MEN DON'T LIKE WOMEN INTERFERING---

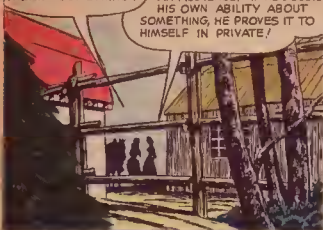
---WELL, HEAVEN KNOWS I'D NEVER HAVE LET MY FIANCE MOUNT A WILD HORSE WITHOUT KNOWING, WHETHER HE LIKED IT OR NOT! BUT IF YOU WANT TO FIND OUT HOW HE **DID** RIDE OLD THUNDER, LET'S ASK RAMON!

MINUTES LATER...

SI, SEÑORITA MARAGON, HE SWEAR ME INTO SECRECY, BUT TO THE LITTLE SEÑORITA, I TELL ALL! SEÑOR MCKAY IS A STUBBORN MAN! AGAIN AND AGAIN HE FALLS, BUT FINALLY HE **RIDES** OLD THUNDER!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, JULIE! WHY DIDN'T HE RIDE WHEN IT MEANT SOMETHING?

OBVIOUSLY, JIM MCKAY IS DETERMINED NOT TO SHOW OFF IN FRONT OF AN AUDIENCE! IF HE DOUBTS HIS OWN ABILITY ABOUT SOMETHING, HE PROVES IT TO HIMSELF IN PRIVATE!



BUT IF HE LOVES ME, WHY WOULD HE LET ME THINK---

---IF YOU LOVE HIM, WHY SHOULD YOU HAVE EVER THOUGHT HE WAS A COWARD?



IF ONLY HE HAD PROVED HE LOVED ME!

HE DID, BUT NOT IN FRONT OF EVERYONE! HE CAME TO ME AND BOUGHT BIG MUDDY FOR YOU! BUT INSTEAD OF TRYING TO UNDERSTAND HIM, YOU THREW IT ALL AWAY BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T PUT ON A CIRCUS FOR YOU!



SOON AFTER, AS JULIE MARAGON RIDES FOR TOWN...

HOWDY, MISS JULIE! I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU!

YOU HAVE BUCK? WELL, WHAT DO YOU WANT?



I'D LIKE YOU TO PAY US A VISIT AT OUR PLACE! COMING?

I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE! BUT I MAY BE BETTER OFF IF I GO ALONG NOW WITHOUT A PROTEST AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS LATER!



BUT IF THERE IS TROUBLE, I HOPE SOMEONE RIDING ALONG THE ROAD TO TOWN WILL FIND MY GLOVE!



LATER THAT AFTERNOON IN TOWN AS JIM PREPARES TO LEAVE...



I BROUGHT YOU THIS / DAD SAID UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, HE COULDN'T KEEP THE DUELING PISTOLS!

I WAS HOPING HE WOULD!



I GUESS I HAVE TO GIVE YOU BACK YOUR RING, TOO! BUT I'D RATHER YOU TOOK ME IN YOUR ARMS! I CAN SEE HOW STRONG YOU ARE BY THE WAY YOU LIFT ME DOWN--STRONG ENOUGH TO RIDE OLD THUNDER!

I SEE! YOU TALKED TO RAMON! I RODE OLD THUNDER SO NOW

I'M RESPECTABLE AGAIN! FIT TO BE MARRIED TO A TERRILL!



JIM! I-I LEARNED I HAD MISJUDGED YOU AND CAME TO APOLOGIZE!

WHAT ABOUT STEVE LEECH? I'VE RIDDEN THE HORSE, BUT DON'T I HAVE TO FIGHT STEVE LEECH, TOO, TO QUALIFY FOR MARRIAGE? AND THEN MAYBE YOU'D LIKE ME TO SHOOT BUCK HANNESEY FOR A WEDDING PRESENT!



I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DRIVING AT! NATURALLY, A GIRL LIKES TO KNOW THE MAN SHE'S GOING TO MARRY IS STRONG AND BRAVE---

---I'M NOT PARTICULARLY STRONG, PAT, AND NOT VERY BRAVE! YES, I'LL FIGHT TO PROTECT A LIFE, MY OWN OR SOMEONE ELSE'S, BUT I WON'T FIGHT FOR YOUR PRIDE OR MINE!



I SEE I'M WASTING MY TIME!

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO HAVE FOUND OUT ALL THIS BEFORE WE WERE MARRIED, PAT! I'M SORRY IT DIDN'T WORK OUT!



JULIE TOLD ME THAT YOU BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY! DAD SAID IF THINGS DIDN'T WORK OUT, I WAS TO ASK YOU IF YOU'D SELL IT TO US!

TELL HIM I'M NOT INTERESTED IN SELLING RIGHT NOW!

SOON...

HELLO RAMON! WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN TOWN?

I AM LEAVING THE RANCH. I AM NOT A DDG TO BE WHIPPED!

DID LEECH DO THAT?

NOT LEECH! IF HE EVER TRIED ANYTHING WITH ME, I WOULD CUT HIS THROAT OR BE KILLED BY HIM! NO, IT WAS THE SEÑORITA TERRILL! SHE SAID I MADE A FOOL OF HER! SHE WAS FURIOUS AT ME! IT IS NOT A GOOD PLACE TO WORK!

BUT IT IS NOTHING! NOW I LOOK FOR SEÑORITA MARAGON! DID YOU SEE HER? SHE DROPPED **THIS** GLOVE ON THE WAY TO TOWN!

NO, MISS MARAGON HAS NOT BEEN HERE!

SHE START FOR TOWN AN HOUR OR TWO BEFORE ME, SENOR! I HAVE NOT PASSED HER ON THE ROAD! I HAD BETTER FIND HER TRAIL WHERE SHE DROPPED THE GLOVE!

WAIT A MINUTE! I WANT TO RIDE WITH YOU!

LATER...

BLAST IT, BUCK, GIVE THE LADY A HAND DOWN! ANYBODY'D THINK YOU WERE BROUGHT UP LIKE TRASH!

WHAT DO YOU WANT, MR HANNESEY? IF IT'S ABOUT BIG MUDDY AGAIN, I'LL DISCUSS IT SOME OTHER TIME!

I LIKE A GAL WHO COMES RIGHT TO THE POINT!



A FEW HOURS FROM NOW A FELLOW NAMED JACKMAN WILL RIDE INTO THE LADDER. HE'LL GASP OUT A STORY OF HOW LITTLE MISS MARAGON WAS BROUGHT HERE BRUISED AND TIED UP! THE MAJOR'S BEEN LOOKING FOR AN EXCUSE TO WIPE US OUT! WHEN HE RIDES HERE, THERE'LL BE A GUN AIMED ON EVERY MAN OF HIS!

YOU'D KILL THEM ALL?



THAT'S UP TO YOU! THE MAJOR WILL ORDER US TO DELIVER YOU UP! BUT YOU'LL BE LOOKING FRESH AND UNHARMED! THEY'LL KNOW JACKMAN'S STORY IS PHONY! THEN YOU'LL INVITE THEM TO YOUR WEDDING!

M-MY WHAT?



MISS MARAGON, THIS IS THE REVEREND BEAMIS WHO'LL MARRY YOU TO BUCK—UNLESS YOU WANT TO SEE THE MAJOR AND ALL HIS MEN DIE—BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T ACT LIKE YOU WANT TO MARRY BUCK, THOSE HIDDEN GUNS GO INTO ACTION!

AND WHAT WILL THAT DO FOR YOU?



GET ME THE DAUGHTER-IN-LAW I PROMISED BUCK AND BRING BIG MUDDY TO US!

HE'S WRONG THERE! BUT IF I TELL OLD RUFUS JIM OWNS IT NOW, HE'LL REALIZE WE HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO ENTER THE SALE OFFICIALLY! AND TO GET THE TEMPORARY PAPERS WE'VE DRAWN UP, HE'D MURDER JIM TO STEAL THEM!



WE'RE HAVING DINNER, MISS MARAGON! AFTERWARDS, YOU'LL BE SHOWN TO YOUR ROOM! I RECKON YOU HAVE SOME THINKING TO DO!



HAVING FOLLOWED JULIE MARAGON'S TRAIL TILL DARKNESS MADE THEM CAMP, JIM MCKAY AND RAMON PICK IT UP AT FIRST LIGHT THE NEXT MORNING.

WERE YOU SERIOUS LAST NIGHT ABOUT WANTING TO RAISE CATTLE HERE, SENOR?

YES, RAMON, BUT I'M NOT MAKING ANY PLANS TILL I FIND MISS JULIE!

BLANCO CANYON IS AHEAD! IT IS OBVIOUS SHE WAS TAKEN THERE BY THE HANNESEYS...

---WHO'S COMING UP, RAMON?

GOOD MORNING, MAJOR! I'M LOOKING FOR MISS JULIE AND I BELIEVE SHE IS IN THE CANYON---

---I KNOW SHE IS! SHE WAS TAKEN THERE BY FORCE! A HANNESEY HAND NAMED JACKMAN RODE TO OUR PLACE LAST NIGHT AND TOLD US THAT!

BUT WE'LL CUT DOWN THAT WOLF PACK ONCE AND FOR ALL!

THAT COULD BE DANGEROUS FOR MISS MARAGON IF THERE'S ANY SHOOTING!

IF WE RIDE IN TOGETHER, THERE'S BOUND TO BE A FIGHT---

---THAT'S RIGHT, MR. MCKAY, AND YOU DON'T LIKE FIGHTING, DO YOU?

I SUGGEST, SIR, THAT ONE MAN RIDE IN, TALK TO THE HANNESEYS AND HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY! HE MIGHT LEARN WHERE MISS MARAGON IS HELD! I WILL GO!

YOU ARE GOING TO RIDE IN THERE ALONE?

I APPRECIATE YOUR OFFER. BUT I SEE NO REASON TO BARGAIN WITH SCOUNDRELS!

SIR, DID YOU COME HERE TO SAVE A GIRL'S LIFE OR MERELY TO SETTLE A PRIVATE GRUDGE?



DON'T RIDE IN!... IT'S A TRAP!

PAT, WHAT'S WRONG?

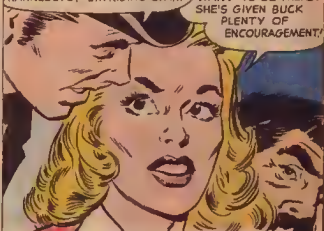


I WAS IN TOWN---HEARD A DRUNKEN COWBOY BRAGGING HOW HE HAD GOTTEN PAID FOR BRINGING YOU INTO A TRAP! HIS NAME WAS JACKMAN! HE SAID OLD RUFUS HAD HIM TELL YOU A FALSE STORY TO BRING YOU HERE!



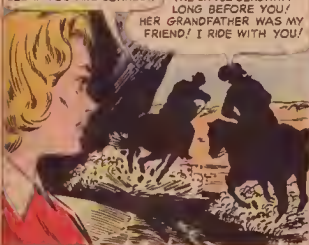
WELL, I CAN'T LEAVE JULIE IN THE CLUTCHES OF THE HANNESEYS! I'M RIDING ON IN!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT SHE DOESN'T WANT TO BE THERE? SHE'S GIVEN BUCK PLENTY OF ENCOURAGEMENT!



I'LL JUST ASK HER AND SEE IF YOU ARE CORRECT!

SEÑOR, WAIT! I KNEW THE LITTLE SENDRITA LONG BEFORE YOU! HER GRANDFATHER WAS MY FRIEND! I RIDE WITH YOU!



DON'T LOOK UP SEÑOR, I SAW THE GLINT OF A GUN BARREL--- WE ARE WATCHED!



LIGHT, STRANGER! BY YOUR CLOTHES, YOU MUST BE MCKAY! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?

THERE'S SOME QUESTION AS TO WHETHER MISS MARAGON IS HERE OF HER OWN FREE WILL OR NOT!



I APPRECIATE YOUR CONCERN, MR. MCKAY, BUT I'M QUITE ALL RIGHT!

GOOD! THEN PERHAPS, I CAN ESCORT YOU HOME!

I'M AFRAID NOT! I'M STAYING HERE! YOU SEE, BUCK HANNESEY AND I ARE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

YES, THE REVEREND BEAMIS IS HERE TO PERFORM THE LITTLE CEREMONY!



IN THAT CASE, THERE'S NOTHING FOR ME TO DO BUT OFFER MY CONGRATULATIONS! NATURALLY, YOU DON'T WANT TO DISCUSS BUSINESS NOW!

WHAT BUSINESS WOULD YOU BE HAVING WITH THIS GIRL?

HASN'T MISS MARAGON TOLD YOU? I BOUGHT THE BIG MUDDY FROM HER THE OTHER DAY! THERE ARE A FEW LEGAL DETAILS WAITING TO BE TAKEN CARE OF, BUT THEY CAN WAIT!

DID YOU REALLY SELL HIM YOUR PLACE?



YES, HE OWNS
THE BIG MUDDY!

AND THE BILL OF SALE IS IN A
SAFE PLACE! I CAME HERE TO
MARRY MISS TERRILL AND NAT-
URALLY, I MADE OUT A WILL IN HER
FAVOR! IF ANYTHING HAPPENS
TO ME, THE BIG MUDDY GOES TO
MISS TERRILL!

WELL, I'LL BE HANGED!
THREE YEARS OF WAITING
AND PLANNING AND I'M
A COUPLE OF DAYS
TOO LATE!---
YOU HAVE
PROOF?

MR. MCKAY
PAID TWO
THOUSAND
DOLLARS DOWN
IN CASH! HERE IS
HIS NOTE FOR
THE BALANCE!

I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR
PRICE **PLUS** A PROFIT
OF THREE THOUSAND
DOLLARS!

LET MISS
MARAGON **LEAVE**
AND WE'LL TALK
ABOUT IT!

ALL RIGHT! GIVE ME THE BILL
OF SALE AND YOU CAN ALL RIDE
OUT OF HERE!

NO, THEY CAN'T--
NOT **HER**!

YOU'RE ASKING FOR
TROUBLE FOR ALL OF US,
BUCK!

YOU DON'T MIND AS LONG
AS YOU GET WHAT **YOU**
WANT OUT OF A DEAL,
DO YOU?

HE'S RIGHT, I RECKON! I PROMISED HIM
SOMETHING! HE DID HIS PART! IT'S NOT
HIS FAULT IF THE PLAN OF MINE DIDN'T
WORK OUT RIGHT! THE DEAL IS **OFF**!
MCKAY, YOU AND RAMON
BETTER MAKE TRACKS!

YOU MEAN
YOU'D FORCE
MISS MARAGON TO
MARRY **BUCK**?

SHE'S NOTHING TO ME, SON! EXPECT ME TO FIGHT MY OWN FLESH AND BLOOD FOR HER?

HANNESEY, I'VE OWED YOU SOMETHING SINCE THE DAY I ARRIVED---

OWW!

GIVE HIM A GUN, SOMEBODY! GIVE THAT DUDE A GUN!

IT IS A WILD GAMBLE--- BUT SOMETHING IN THE WAY OLD RUFUS KEEPS WANTING TO BE TREATED LIKE A RESPECT-
ABLE GENTLEMAN MAY MAKE THIS TRICK WORK!

RAMON, TELL THE GENTLEMAN THAT IF HE WANTS SATISFACTION FOR THE BLOW, I'LL BE GLAD TO OBLIGE HIM! HERE ARE THE PISTOLS AND I ASSUME TWENTY PACES IS AGREEABLE!

TELL HIM TO TURN AROUND UNLESS HE WANTS IT IN THE BACK!

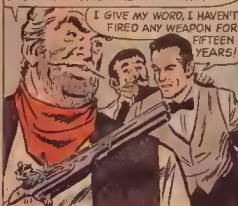
HOLD ON, BUCK! YOUR WOMEN ARE YOUR BUSINESS, BUT I SAY WHO GETS SHOT AROUND HERE! SEEMS MR. MCKAY IS CHALLENGING YOU TO A DUEL!

HERE ARE THE WEAPONS!

REAL GENTLEMEN'S WEAPONS! I THINK IT'S TIME BUCK FOUGHT A GENTLEMAN! I'M TIRED OF WATCHING HIM YANK OUT HIS SIX-GUN EVERY TIME A FLY BITES HIM!---BUCK, YOU DRAW FAST, BUT CAN YOU FACE A MAN ON EVEN TERMS?

I'LL FIGHT HIM WITH **ANY** WEAPON!

I'M CUTTING MY OWN THROAT, MCKAY!
IF HE KILLS YOU, I LOSE BIG MUDDY
TO TERRILL! IF YOU WIN I LOSE A
SON! BUT I LIKE YOUR STYLE---
THOUGH I SUPPOSE YOU'RE A DEAD
SHOT WITH THIS PRETTY THING!



MINUTES LATER, AS OLD RUFUS LOADS AND PACES OFF
THE DUELING DISTANCE...



AS HIS BROTHERS JEER, BUCK WATCHES HIS FATHER RE-
LOAD BOTH PISTOLS AND THEY TAKE THEIR PLACES...





MINUTES LATER, THEY TELL WHAT HAPPENED IN THE CANYON ..

I STILL SAY THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED FOR WHAT THEY AIMED TO DO TO MISS MARAGON!

ONE MAN IS DEAD! THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY! TURN AROUND AND RIDE HOME



OUT OF THE WAY OR I'LL RIDE YOU DOWN!

I WOULDN'T FIGHT YOU FOR A LADY'S SMILE, MR LEECH BUT I **WILL** FIGHT YOU FOR THE LIVES OF THE MEN WHO'D DIE IF YOU ATTACKED!



BUT I WARN YOU, I COMMANDED MY OWN SHIP AT TWENTY-ONE! I OFTEN HAD TO GET DISCIPLINE WITH MY FISTS! SO IF YOU'D LIKE TO AVOID THE FIGHT AND APOLOGIZE FOR STRIKING ME THE OTHER DAY...

---APOLOGIZE! I'LL FIX YOU GOOD THIS TIME!



HE'S STILL TRYING TO GET UP! HE HAS COURAGE!

YES, HE DOES BUT COURAGE AFTER A IS A FAIRLY COMMON THING!



GIDDAP!

WELL, JULIE, I GUESS I CAN RIDE BACK WITH YOU WITHOUT HAVING TO MAKE ANY EXPLANATIONS TO PAT!



LATER

BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW OLD RUFUS WOULD MAKE BUCK FIGHT THE DUEL?

IT WAS A MATTER OF HONOR TO HIM! HAVING A SON WHO FOUGHT A DUEL WOULD GIVE OLD RUFUS A TOUCH OF HONOR AND GENTLEMANLY GLAMOR. BUT BUCK REVERTED TO TYPE SO RUFUS SHOT HIM!



I'VE LIVED WITH HONOR A LONG TIME! IT WAS SO WORSHIPPED IN MY HOUSE, THAT MY FATHER DIED WITH ONE OF THESE PISTOLS IN HIS HAND FOR AN INSULT WHOSE EXACT NATURE NO ONE COULD REMEMBER LATER! FIVE TIMES HE FOUGHT FOR HIS HONOR---



FINALLY, HE WAS KILLED! MY MOTHER DIED OF GRIEF SHORTLY AFTER! I PROMISED MYSELF I WOULD NEVER LIFT A FINGER FOR THE SAKE OF PRIDE OR HONOR! THIS IS A HARD COUNTRY IN WHICH TO KEEP THAT PROMISE, JULIE!



THERE'S ONLY ONE THING THAT WOULD KEEP ME HERE---IF YOU BECOME MY WIFE!



THEN I RECKON YOU'RE STAYING!

THE
END

A PLEDGE **DELL** COMIC TO PARENTS

The Dell Trademark is, and always has been, a positive guarantee that the comic magazine bearing it contains only clean and wholesome entertainment. The Dell code eliminates entirely, rather than regulates, objectionable material. That's why when your child buys a Dell Comic you can be sure it contains only good fun. "DELL COMICS ARE GOOD COMICS" is our only credo and constant goal.

TENDERFOOT JOKES

THE TENDERFOOT IN THE OLD WEST WAS ALWAYS THE VICTIM OF PRANKS DURING HIS BREAKING-IN PERIOD. BEFORE HE BECAME AN "OLD HAND," HE WAS SENT TO DO A VARIETY OF IMPOSSIBLE JOBS. A FAVORITE WAS SENDING THE NEW-COMER TO THE STORE FOR "STRIPED PAINT."



SOMETIMES, A NEW HANO WAS GIVEN MACARONI TO PLANT AND HE WATERED AND TENDED THE CROP CAREFULLY UNTIL HE CAUGHT ONTO THE TRICK.



STORIES TO FRIGHTEN A TENDERFOOT WERE TOLD OF DUST STORMS SO THICK THAT AFTER ONE, A TIEO HORSE COULD BE FOUND STANDING SEVENTY FEET IN THE AIR.



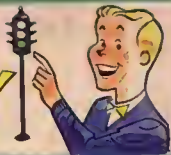
PROSPECTORS FOOLED NEWCOMERS BY MINING "JACK PINE GOLD" SUPPOSEDLY CAUGHT IN TREES AS THEY PUSHEO THROUGH THE EARTH, BUT REALLY HIDDEN TO TRICK THE UNWARY.



"FEARSOME CRITTERS" WERE MADE BY PAINTING AND DECORATING COMMON RANCH ANIMALS. ALL WAS OONE TO TEASE AND MOST TIMES EVEN THE TENDERFOOT ENJOYED THE FUN.



JUICY FRUIT GUM
PRESENTS
HAVE FUN SAFELY



DON'T GET HURT



NEVER run into or across the street.
NEVER step between parked cars.
NEVER cross in the middle of a block.
NEVER run after busses or cars.
NEVER accept rides with strangers.
NEVER play games in or near the street.

BE SMART-PLAY SAFE



ALWAYS cross at crosswalks.
ALWAYS look both ways and around corner before crossing the street.
ALWAYS walk, don't run, across streets.
ALWAYS wait for the green when crossing of a traffic light.
ALWAYS walk on the sidewalk, if possible.
If you must walk in road, face traffic.

HERE'S ANOTHER SMART IDEA...

You'll go for the delicious flavor of Juicy Fruit Gum—
and chewing this swell gum helps keep your
teeth clean. Remind your Mom
to bring some home.

